

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

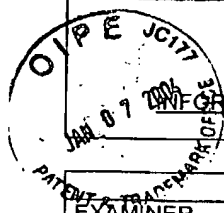
Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.**



FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

ATTY. DOCKET NO.
0666.1110004/TGD/RLPAPPLICATION NO.
10/673,377FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
Abend et al.FILING DATE
September 30, 2003ART UNIT
3616

Page 1 of 11

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
JS	AA1	168,955	10/19/1875	J.B. Annin			
	AB1	2,191,961	02/27/1940	Howell			
	AC1	2,255,348	09/1941	Brown			
	AD1	2,311,922	02/23/1943	Allin			
	AE1	2,332,838	10/1943	Borgward			
	AF1	2,336,911	12/1943	Zimmermann			
	AG1	2,336,912	12/1943	Zimmermann			
	AH1	2,391,735	12/1945	Orshansky, Jr.			
	AI1	2,530,720	11/1950	Paulson			
	AJ1	2,745,506	05/1956	McCallum			
JS	AK1	2,763,164	09/1956	Neklutin			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
JS	AL1	249274	04/1948	Switzerland			Yes No
	AM1	1147142	10/1960	France			Yes No
	AN1	57-140277	08/1982	Japan			Yes No
	AO1	63-227476	09/1988	Japan			Yes No
JS	AP1	2-261952	10/1990	Japan			Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

JS	AR	1	Brochure Regarding Differential Steering, pp. 4-15.
	AS	1	Excel Industries, Inc. "Hustler 4000 Series", 1995, pp. 1-8.
JS	AT	1	Michael Bargo, Jr., "Tanks and dozers turn on a dime with new all gear steering", Popular Science, July 1985, pp. 60-62.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED 7/23/04

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

 ATTY. DOCKET NO.
 0666.1110004/TGD/RLP
 FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
 Abend *et al.*

 APPLICATION NO.
 10/673,377

 FILING DATE
 September 30, 2003

 ART UNIT
 3616

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
9/25	AA2	2,936,033	05/1960	Gates			
	AB2	3,059,416	10/1962	Campbell			
	AC2	3,371,734	03/1968	Zaunberger <i>et al.</i>			
	AD2	3,376,760	04/1968	Gordainer			
	AE2	3,395,671	08/1968	Zimmermann, Jr.			
	AF2	3,450,218	06/1969	Looker			
	AG2	3,492,891	02/1970	Livezey			
	AH2	3,530,741	09/1970	Charest			
	AI2	3,590,658	07/1971	Tuck			
	AJ2	3,596,535	08/1971	Polak			
	AK2	3,603,176	09/1971	Tippling <i>et al.</i>			
9/25	AL2	3,612,199	10/1971	Vissers			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
9/25	AM2	WO 92/12889	08/1992	PCT			Yes
	AN2	42 24 887 A1	10/1993	Germany			No
	AO2	6-264976	09/1994	Japan			Yes
	AP2	8-142906	06/1996	Japan			No
9/25	AR2	2 303 829 A	03/1997	United Kingdom			Yes
							No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

9/25	AS	2	R.M. Ogorkiewicz, "Tank Steering Mechanisms", <i>The Engineer</i> , March 3, 1967, pp. 337-340.				
↓	AT	2	Excel Industries, Inc., "U-T-R The Ultimate Turning Radius", 1992, pp. 1-6.				
9/25	AU	2	Electric Tractor Corporation, "An Idea Whose Time Has Come", 5 pages, date of publication unknown, published in Ontario, Canada.				

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED 7/23/04

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

FORM PTO-1449

ATTY. DOCKET NO.
0666.1110004/TGD/RLP
FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
Abend *et al.*
FILING DATE
September 30, 2003

APPLICATION NO.
10/673,377
ART UNIT
3616

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
JA	AA3 / 3,717,212	02/1973	Potter			
	AB3 / 3,796,275	03/1974	Bouyer			
	AC3 / 3,869,014	03/1975	Federspiel <i>et al.</i>			
	AD3 / 3,901,339	08/1975	Williamson			
	AE3 / 3,903,977	09/1975	Gillette <i>et al.</i>			
	AF3 / 3,907,051	09/1975	Weant <i>et al.</i>			
	AG3 / 3,966,005	06/1976	Binger			
	AH3 / 3,978,937	09/1976	Chichester <i>et al.</i>			
	AI3 / 4,133,404	01/1979	Griffin			
	AJ3 / 4,174,762	11/1979	Hopkins <i>et al.</i>			
	AK3 / 4,245,524	01/1981	Dammon			
JA	AL3 / 4,281,737	08/1981	Molzahn			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
JA	AM3 / 9-202255	08/1997	Japan			Yes No
	AN3 / 9-202258	08/1997	Japan			Yes No
	AO3 / 9-202259	08/1997	Japan			Yes No
	AP3 / 9-216522	08/1997	Japan			Yes No
JA	AQ3 / 0 806 337 A1	12/1997	Europe			Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

JA	AR / 3	Electric Tractor Corporation, Model #9620, "The Ultimate Lawn and Garden Tractor", 6 pages, date of publication unknown.				
	AS / 3	Farm Show Magazine, "Battery Powered Riding mower", 1 page, date of publication, March-April 1996.				
JA	AT / 3	Deere & Company, "240, 245, 260, 265, 285 and 320 Lawn and Garden Tractors Technical Manual", front cover and pages 10-2 to 10-4 and 10-6, date of publication, 1996.				

EXAMINER *Jaeger*

DATE CONSIDERED 7/23/04

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

ATTY. DOCKET NO.
0666.1110004/TGD/RLP
FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
Abend *et al.*
FILING DATE
September 30, 2003

APPLICATION NO.
10/673,377
ART UNIT
3616

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
988	AA4	4,320,810	03/1982	Hillmann <i>et al.</i>			
	AB4	4,399,882	08/1983	O'Neill <i>et al.</i>			
	AC4	4,471,669	09/1984	Seaberg			
	AD4	4,572,310	02/1986	Peter			
	AE4	4,577,711	03/1986	Butler			
	AF4	4,620,575	11/1986	Cuba <i>et al.</i>			
	AG4	4,718,508	01/1988	Tervola			
	AH4	4,729,257	03/1988	Nelson			
	AI4	4,732,053	03/1988	Gleasant <i>et al.</i>			
	AJ4	4,738,328	04/1988	Hayden			
	AK4	4,776,235	10/1988	Gleasant <i>et al.</i>			
	AL4	4,776,236	10/1988	Gleasant <i>et al.</i>			
988	AM4	4,782,650	11/1988	Walker			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
988	AN4	WO 98/32645	07/1998	PCT			Yes No
988	AO4	WO 99/40499	08/1999	PCT			Yes No
988	AP4	WO 00/01569	01/2000	PCT			Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

988	AR	4	Woods Equipment Company, "Woods Mow'n Machine, Zero turning radius riding mower", 12 pages, 1997.				
↓	AS	4	ExMark "Professional turf care equipment", 20 pages, 1997.				
988	AT	4	Dixon Industries, Inc., "Dixon ZTR Riding Mowers", pp. 1-4, 1997.				

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

7/23/04

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

 ATTY. DOCKET NO.
 0666.1110004/TGD/RLP
 FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
 Abend *et al.*

 APPLICATION NO.
 10/673,377

 FILING DATE
 September 30, 2003

 ART UNIT
 3616

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
GR	AA5 / 4,790,399	12/1988	Middlesworth			
	AB5 / 4,809,796	03/1989	Yamaoka <i>et al.</i>			
	AC5 / 4,813,506	03/1989	Smith			
	AD5 / 4,870,820	10/1989	Nemoto			
	AE5 / 4,875,536	10/1989	Saur <i>et al.</i>			
	AF5 / 4,882,947	11/1989	Barnard			
	AG5 / 4,895,052	01/1990	Gleasant <i>et al.</i>			
	AH5 / 4,914,907	04/1990	Okada			
	AI5 / 4,917,200	04/1990	Lucius			
	AJ5 / 4,932,209	06/1990	Okada <i>et al.</i>			
GR	AK5 / 4,949,823	08/1990	Coutant <i>et al.</i>			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL5					Yes No
	AM5					Yes No
	AN5					Yes No
	AO5					Yes No
	AP5					Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

GR	AR / 5	Shivvers, Mfg., "Zero turn radius mower, The Commercial Clipper", pp. 1-4, 1997.
↓	AS / 5	Ferris Industries, Inc., "The ProCut Z Zero Turn Rider", pp. 1-2, 1997.
GR	AT / 5	Zipper, TS Mower, "The Zipper-TS Mowers", pp. 1-2, 1997.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED 9/23/04

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

FORM PTO-1449

 ATTY. DOCKET NO.
 0666.1110004/TGD/RLP
 FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
 Abend *et al.*

 APPLICATION NO.
 10/673,377

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

 FILING DATE
 September 30, 2003

 ART UNIT
 3616

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
9/8	AA6	5,004,060	04/1991	Barbagli <i>et al.</i>			
	AB6	5,015,221	05/1991	Smith			
	AC6	5,052,511	10/1991	Hunt			
	AD6	5,094,326	03/1992	Schemelin <i>et al.</i>			
	AE6	5,131,483	07/1992	Parkes			
	AF6	RE34,057	09/1992	Middlesworth			
	AG6	5,195,600	03/1993	Dorgan			
	AH6	5,201,240	04/1993	Hayes <i>et al.</i>			
	AI6	5,247,784	09/1993	Kitamura <i>et al.</i>			
	AJ6	5,279,376	01/1994	Yang <i>et al.</i>			
	AK6	5,285,866	02/1994	Ackroyd			
	AL6	5,307,612	05/1994	Tomiyama <i>et al.</i>			
	AM6	5,314,387	05/1994	Hauser <i>et al.</i>			
9/8	AN6	5,335,739	08/1994	Pieterse <i>et al.</i>			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AO6						Yes No
	AP6						Yes No
	AQ6						Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

9/8	AR	6	Westwood, "The Westwood Clipper, Owner's Instruction Manual", pp. 1-17, 19, date of publication unknown.				
	AS	6					
	AT	6					

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED 7/23/04

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

FORM PTO-1449

ATTY. DOCKET NO.
0666.1110004/TGD/RLPAPPLICATION NO.
10/673,377

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
Abend *et al.*FILING DATE
September 30, 2003ART UNIT
3616

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
88	AA7	5,339,631	08/1994	Ohashi			
	AB7	5,367,861	11/1994	Murakawa <i>et al.</i>			
	AC7	5,383,528	01/1995	Nicol			
	AD7	5,387,161	02/1995	Shibahata			
	AE7	5,505,279	04/1996	Louis <i>et al.</i>			
	AF7	5,507,138	04/1996	Wright <i>et al.</i>			
	AG7	5,517,809	05/1996	Rich			
	AH7	5,535,840	07/1996	Ishino <i>et al.</i>			
	AI7	5,553,453	09/1996	Coutant <i>et al.</i>			
	AJ7	5,560,447	10/1996	Ishii <i>et al.</i>			
	AK7	5,564,518	10/1996	Ishii <i>et al.</i>			
98	AL7	5,644,903	07/1997	Davis, Jr.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AM7						Yes No
	AN7						Yes No
	AO7						Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

AR	7	
AS	7	
AT	7	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED 7/23/04

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

ATTY. DOCKET NO.
0666.1110004/TGD/RLPAPPLICATION NO.
10/673,377FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
Abend *et al.*FILING DATE
September 30, 2003ART UNIT
3616

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA8	5,649,606	07/1997	Bebernes <i>et al.</i>			
	AB8	5,667,032	09/1997	Kamlukin			
	AC8	5,706,907	01/1998	Unruh			
	AD8	5,722,501	03/1998	Finch <i>et al.</i>			
	AE8	5,775,437	07/1998	Ichikawa <i>et al.</i>			
	AF8	5,782,142	07/1998	Abend <i>et al.</i>			
	AG8	5,824,376 5,842,378	12/1998 7/23/04	Zellmer			
	AH8	5,850,886	12/1998	Kuono <i>et al.</i>			
	AI8	5,894,907	04/1999	Peter			
	AJ8	5,910,060	06/1999	Blume			
	AK8	5,913,802	06/1999	Mullet <i>et al.</i>			
	AL8	5,946,894	09/1999	Eavenson <i>et al.</i>			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AM8						Yes No
	AN8						Yes No
	AO8						Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	AR	8	
	AS	8	
	AT	8	

EXAMINER

George J. Z...

DATE CONSIDERED

7/23/04

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

ATTY. DOCKET NO.
0666.1110004/TGD/RLPAPPLICATION NO.
10/673,377FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
Abend *et al.*FILING DATE
September 30, 2003ART UNIT
3616

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
AA9	5,947,219	09/1999	Peter <i>et al.</i>			
AB9	5,975,224	11/1999	Satzler			
AC9	5,997,425	12/1999	Coutant <i>et al.</i>			
AD9	6,026,634	02/2000	Peter <i>et al.</i>			
AE9	6,035,959	03/2000	Schaedler			
AF9	6,038,840	03/2000	Ishimori <i>et al.</i>			
AG9	6,098,386	08/2000	Shimizu <i>et al.</i>			
AH9	6,098,737	8/2000	Aoki			
AI9	6,098,740	08/2000	Abend <i>et al.</i>			
AJ9	6,126,564	10/2000	Irikura <i>et al.</i>			
AK9	6,129,164	10/2000	Teal <i>et al.</i>			
AL9	6,141,947	11/2000	Borling			
AM9	6,152,248	11/28/2000	Hidaka <i>et al.</i>			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
AN9						Yes No
AO9						Yes No
AP9						Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

AR	9	
AS	9	
AT	9	

EXAMINER

J. J. J. J. J.

DATE CONSIDERED

7/23/04

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

ATTY. DOCKET NO.
0666.1110004/TGD/RLP
FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
Abend *et al.*
FILING DATE
September 30, 2003

APPLICATION NO.
10/673,377
ART UNIT
3616

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
AA10	6,189,641	02/2001	Azuma			
AB10	6,196,342 B1	03/06/2001	Teal <i>et al.</i>			
AC10	6,196,348	03/2001	Yano <i>et al.</i>			
AD10	6,257,357 B1	07/10/2001	Teal <i>et al.</i>			
AE10	6,260,641	07/2001	Hidaka			
AF10	2001/0011610	08/2001	Teal <i>et al.</i>			
AG10	6,283,236	09/2001	Teal <i>et al.</i>			
AH10	6,312,354	11/6/2001	Irikura			
AI10	6,354,388	03/2002	Teal <i>et al.</i>			
AJ10	6,397,966	6/4/2002	Irikura			
AK10	6,524,205	2/25/2003	Irikura			
AL10	6,336,513	1/8/2002	Hasegawa			
AM10	6,447,419	9/10/2002	Irikura			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
AN10						Yes No
AO10						Yes No
AP10						Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

AR	10	
AS	10	
AT	10	

EXAMINER

Joseph Z. Z...

DATE CONSIDERED

7/29/04

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

ATTY. DOCKET NO.
0666.1110004/TGD/RLPAPPLICATION NO.
10/673,377FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
Abend *et al.*FILING DATE
September 30, 2003ART UNIT
3616

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
AA11	6,540,633	4/1/2003	Hasegawa			
AB11	6,544,085	4/29/2003	Hasegawa			
AC11	6,547,685	4/15/03	Kawada			
AD11						
AE11						
AF11						
AG11						
AH11						
AI11						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
AL11						Yes No
AM11						Yes No
AN11						Yes No
AO11						Yes No
AP11						Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

AR	11	
AS	11	
AT	11	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
<i>[Signature]</i>	7/23/04

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.